
The US House of Representatives has voted to impose a 90% tax on bonuses awarded to executives from companies which receive large amounts of federal bailout money, such as AIG. The bill has yet to be considered by the Senate. James Coomarasamy reports:

After the **shouts of rage from** Congress, this was a vote that **reflected** the public anger over the AIG **bonuses**. Eighty-five House Republicans joined with Democrats **to approve** a 90% tax on bonuses awarded to high-earning employees from **bailed out companies**.

This was despite opposition from Republican leaders, who argued that **the measure was intended to divert attention away from** questions about the administration's **handling of** the affair.

The tax, which the Senate will now **consider**, would apply to anyone earning more than \$250,000 and firms receiving over \$5bn of public money.

James Coomarasamy, BBC News, Washington

Vocabulary and definitions

shouts of rage from	anger publicly expressed by
reflected	showed, was a sign of
bonuses	money received in addition to normal pay, usually as a reward
to approve	here, to introduce, to officially confirm
bailed out companies	companies that have been given money from public funds in order to stop them collapsing
the measure was intended	the real aim of this move
to divert attention away from	to make the general public think of something other than
handling of	way of dealing with, tackling
consider	give its attention to - in order to make a decision

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